



Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad

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"I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to the violence, we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural violence, social injustice, the exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, representation..." – Saint Oscar Romero of El Salvador.

San Salvador, December 2019



Dear Friends,

We want to wish you happy holidays and express our gratitude for your support to CIS' solidarity work – empowering communities to be architects in their own social and economic transformation over **26 years!**

A transformation is taking place in El Salvador, where, for the first time, the government is prioritizing investing in the **most marginalized communities** in El Salvador; previously the only government presence in these areas was police and military. Real investment in social fabric is taking place, including: dignified housing; potable water; roads; community centers – with art, hip hop, skate boarding, computers, and libraries; 6,000 university scholarships and vocational training; and other social investment. Government ministers and their teams are visiting these communities daily instead of sitting behind a desk. Government ministries are also coordinating. With earlier administrations, communities had to visit as many as seven different ministries, multiple times, to resolve one problem. Now the information is shared, and the ministries come to the community to facilitate solutions. The results are palpable, with the percentage of Salvadoran immigrants arriving at the U.S. border lowering significantly, as migrations from Honduras and Guatemala surge in 2019. At CIS we know these transformations do not take place overnight and they are complicated processes, but we are happy to see a government empowering the most left-out communities and young people!

With this opening, CIS approached the government about potable water in the Paso Puente Community and sewage for some 5,000 families covering Distrito Italia, Romero, Paso Puente, and other nearby communities. We informed them of the poverty and social exclusion. CIS has been accompanying these communities with the request for potable water and sewage since 2008, always being rejected. Within days of a government visit in July, they started working on a potable water system and promised to work on a sewage system within three years. They asked CIS to be partners in building dignified homes for families living in deplorable conditions. They have offered vocational training for the at-risk youth to complement CIS scholarship programs in the area. Paso Puente Community is not well organized, and we foresaw many difficulties in taking on such a complex project. But with the new government offering housing subsidies, we knew we had to strike while the iron is hot. In October we began building the first 15 dignified homes of 54 approved by the government in Paso Puente. The Government will provide a subsidy of \$3,500 and CIS has committed to raising \$4,000 per home to complete a dignified home. **Homes for the Heart** in Kansas City also committed to help CIS raise a big chunk of the funds

needed. With our experience building 65 homes in Romero Community in 2016, we knew we had the experience and trust to be partners with the community and the government.

The process has helped CIS to better understand the needs and to work more effectively with the community. Above, I mentioned **marginalization**, and my understanding of the word has deepened in this process. **We found** that youth are stigmatized and not able to get jobs if they live in that zone; families live in homes made of plastic, tin, and bed springs, with dirt floors; and families lack potable water and sanitation. When we began to make personal visits, we found that many young women who head up households cannot read or write; their kids are not in school, even though it is a stone's throw away; women lack family planning as well as knowledge of sexual and reproductive health; more than a handful of kids who are deaf or with minimal disability have not received any formal education; and kids are regularly beaten by authorities. In short, instead of hope or vision, we found generally perfect conditions for cultivating gang members.

In just a few short months CIS was able to facilitate a literacy teacher, increase scholarships, and start to build dignified homes, **but we need your support for continued social transformation in Paso Puente and other communities where CIS works.**

Below are a few highlights of additional CIS solidarity, empowerment and transformation work in 2019:

- CIS Scholarship and Leadership development program included **495 students this year!** 104 students graduated: 22 university students and 82 from high school, with leadership skills and local projects focusing on protecting the environment, clean water, literacy, English and Computer courses, and art and mental health programs for youth in high risk zones.
- Women's businesses have continued to professionalize with additional training in the process of becoming legal businesses, including: sanitary and hygiene certification, sales training, filling out and paying government tax forms, improving and broadening product line, and more. *Manos Creativas* (Creative Hands) in Estanzuelas graduated as a business and is training another group of women with economic needs to learn sewing to complement their embroidery and handicraft business.
- CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation completed a 7-month leadership course with 40 community leaders and CIS social organizing staff – with a focus on gender equality and human rights.
- Five women falsely accused of abortion had their 30-year sentences commuted to 10 years and were released from prison. In addition, Evelyn was absolved after spending 33 months in prison. CIS provided care packages to women released from prison with only the shirts on their backs, as well as scholarships to the women and their children, so they can have an opportunity for the future.
- CIS scholarship students visited St. Patrick's Church and St. Peter's Church in Kansas City in November, and the CIS Director and Delegation Coordinator were invited to give a workshop on solidarity at the School of the Americas Watch Conference and vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

We ask for your support and solidarity action for CIS to strike while the iron is hot in transforming communities and those who have been left out for decades!

- \$4,000 will complete a dignified home for one family. (Specifically, \$1,200 will place a roof; \$300 will provide a cement sink; and \$1,500 will build a bathroom and absorption well.)
- \$75 will provide clean water to a family for 10 years and train and raise awareness about the environment, hygiene, clean water, and proper use and care of water filters.
- \$ 500 a year will subsidize health care or pension fund for one of CIS dedicated team members.
- **Join the CIS St. Oscar Romero 40th Anniversary Delegation – Solidarity and the Struggle for Social Justice in El Salvador Today! March 19– 26, 2020.** In addition to participating in vigils commemorating St. Romero's struggle for justice, we will visit marginalized communities, women in prison, CIS solidarity projects, and analysis of the reality. The cost of the delegation is between \$700 - \$900, depending on whether you want a shared or single room. Please write us at: delegaciones@cis-elsalvador.org for more information. **See flyer on last page for more details.**

We look forward to hearing from you. Blessings and Solidarity,
Leslie Schuldt, CIS Director and Los Olivos CIS Representative in El Salvador

CIS Board of Directors: Wilfredo Medrano, Delmy Valencia, Mario Arévalo, Eugenio Chicas, Lisandra Soriano, Verónica Arévalo.

Los Olivos CIS Board of Directors: Mimi Jordan, Robyn Smith, Gary Ellis, Mary Frances Ross, Sara Mulrooney, Rosemary Biggins, Mike Tork, Susan Mull, Ed Osowski, Kerm Fendler.

CIS and Los Olivos CIS staff: Bellini Castro, Oscar García, Víctor Andaluz, Vicenta Martínez, Wilmer Erroa, Arturo Severo, Maira Romero, Delmy Linarez, Yessenia Flores, Luis Aguillón, Yeny Girón, Josué Duran, Iris Hernández, Leonor del Carmen Huevo, Esmeralda Reyes, Evelyn Portillo,

CIS 2019 Year End Report Celebrating 26 Years of Solidarity!

PROGRAM: LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

AREA: MELIDA ANAYA MONTES SPANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The CIS taught 47 Spanish students in El Salvador and 19 students on-line, from the United States, Canada, England, Switzerland, India, Holland, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Germany, Poland, and Austria. We would like to thank ***Cristosal, Maryknoll, Share Foundation and the Mennonite Central Committee*** for sending their volunteers to learn Spanish at the CIS. New Brunswick University cancelled the arrival of 3 volunteers after other interns faced security issues in an African country. We are grateful for 3 years of support from **St. Francis Community Center in Kansas** for on-line courses for their employees dealing with immigration issues.



AREA: MELIDA ANAYA MONTES ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS English School trained 17 volunteer teachers who covered 27 classes (some volunteered multiple cycles) to teach English as a Second Language using popular education methodology and teaching techniques – seven from El Salvador; seven from the United States; two from Canada; and one from the United Kingdom. The teachers taught classes to a total of **205 students** in four 9-week cycles during the year, and for the first time Saturday classes were also opened during the second half of the year. The CIS provides partial scholarships each English cycle to persons with scarce economic resources and full scholarships to CIS employees and volunteers. We are grateful to the team of 17 long-term volunteers who made this possible: ***Jill Stiemsa, Ann Legg, Evelia Sierra, Abhijit Gopal, Evelyn Portillo, Oscar Garcia, Ellen Swan, Glenn Rehn, Cameron Clark, Nancy Austin, Elisabet Eppes, Carlos Iraheta, Victoria Rico, Ricardo Calderon, Cesia Guardado, Lesley Valentine, and Kimberly Menjivar.***

AREA: LANGUAGE SCHOOL SOCIAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Cultural exchanges were organized to commemorate the Peace Accords, International Women's Day, Cultural Diversity, May Day, Day of the Cross, Environmental Day, Teachers Day, Sexual Diversity Day, Youth Day, Martyrs of the University of El Salvador, Independence Day, and Violence against Women Day.

PROGRAM: GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

AREA: CIS COMMUNITY NETWORK AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CIS community network meets bi-monthly to promote exchanges between communities and organize workshops on important themes. This year economist Raul Moreno shared an analysis of neo-liberal economics in El Salvador and their impact; Wendy Castillo facilitated two workshops on gender equality and respect; Zulma Larin facilitated two workshops on the environment. Next year we will be re-organizing the Community Network to focus on different topics related directly to program issues – women's businesses and empowerment; youth leadership development and scholarships, and water and the environment. Participants come from the following municipalities:

1. Department of Cabañas: San Isidro, Jutiapa, Cinquera, Ilobasco
2. Department of Usulután: Estanzuelas, Puerto El Triunfo
3. Department of La Libertad: Tamanique, San Pablo Tacachico, Comasagua
4. Department of Cuscatlán: Suchitoto, San Pedro Perulapán, San Rafael Cedros
5. Department of San Salvador: Tonacatepeque, Mejicanos
6. Department of La Paz: San Luis La Herradura, San Juan Nonualco

LA LOMA, Comasagua, Water, Solar Energy, Generator, Education, and non-violence

Thanks to **Rainbow of Hope for Children Foundation in Canada**, CIS was able to deliver a new water tank that supplies potable water to 23 families and over 250 people (large families) and repair the solar energy system in a village without electricity and their generator and welding machine. Rainbow built two classrooms in the village in 2009 and 2011 that serve kindergarten through 6th grade. We were inspired by our visit to see 13 students making the trek together an hour down a steep cliff to go on to 7th grade, where only ten years ago the youth could not read or write! CIS and Romero community members also accompanied the community to overcome violence, as two years ago they were harassed by both gangs from either side of the community using La Loma as a hiding and recruitment place.



DIGNIFIED HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT- PASO PUENTE



As mentioned earlier in this letter, CIS embarked on a dignified housing project with Paso Puente and the Salvadoran Government to benefit 54 families. Three years ago, CIS had started on a leadership development program, scholarships, and art therapy in the same community, and we are committed to continuing to grow these programs and to accompanying a process of social inclusion. Earlier in the year, CIS accompanied the construction of 15 additional homes thanks to a donation from the **Inti Raymi Foundation**. We are also happy to report a commitment from **Holy Spirit Parish** to increase the scholarship and leadership development and opportunities for youth. **More details are available if you would like to raise funds for dignified housing - Ischuld@sbcglobal.net**

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PLAY AS A HUMAN RIGHT - ROMERO COMMUNITY



Chiuchiarella family has donated school supplies to youth in Romero Community since 2008, giving kids an incentive and hope to look for alternatives to violence and migration, and helping families with scarce economic resources to send their kids to school – this is in addition to the scholarships provided by **St. Elizabeth's Parish**. Education has been prioritized by the community, as well as expanding this vision with neighbors. Two new parishes in Kansas City have agreed to raise funds for education in Distrito Italia, Paso Puente, as part of efforts to transform the area from one of marginalization and violence to one of hope and inclusion. Fr. Jerry provided a donation of 12 computers to the local kinder-high school.

The Rotary Club of Wainwright, Alberta, Canada, funded an expansion of the playground so infants and mothers in Romero Community could also enjoy recreational space. **Noelle**

Brigden from Marquette University and retired Peace Corp Veterans of Wisconsin donated equipment and started a power-lifting empowerment class for adults in Romero Community.

The Salvadoran Land Reform Institute, ISTA, sold CIS the land where Romero Community's water system is based in May. With the new potable water project, Romero Community donated half the land to ANDA so they can install a potable water system for Paso Puente and surrounding communities.

17+ WOMEN IMPRISONED FOR OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES and GENDER HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirteen members of CIS International Mission of Election Observers visited women in Ilopango prison in January. We were permitted to take in pens and notebooks so the prisoners can write letters or take classes in prison, but not other material support due to restrictions. CIS provided care packages to women released from prison including backpacks, hygiene items, shampoo, conditioner, laundry soaps, toilet paper, toothbrushes, paste and floss, and other basic needs items – since they get out of prison with only the shirt on their backs.



CIS celebrated with social organizations and the women when they were released from prison: Ena's sentence was commuted in February after spending approximately 10 years in prison; Alba Lorena, Maria del Tránsito, and Cythia Marcela had their sentences commuted after each having spent approximately 10 years in prison; Salvadora Carolina's sentence was commuted in June after spending over 10 years in prison; and Evelyn Hernandez was absolved and declared innocent in August after spending 33 months in prison.

There are still 17 women in prison for obstetric emergencies under El Salvador's absolute prohibition of abortion laws. In May, the majority were moved to a new prison in Izalco. CIS supporters and activists were able to deliver important letters from elected officials in the United States and from the CIS to then-President Sanchez Ceren and then-Minister of Justice on behalf of the women's rights, and we will do so with the new administration in our upcoming Romero Anniversary delegation March 2020.

CIS also accompanies the LGBTI community – especially trans women in their effort to pass a national identity law recognizing their rights, even as they are one of the biggest targets of discrimination and assassination.

Thanks to those who donate to **CIS GENDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**, CIS supports two university students and three high school students; these are women released from prison and/or their children. Two will graduate from high school this year and go on to receive university scholarships. Three activists and trans women with ASPIDH are receiving university and technical scholarships. Both communities live in poverty, are subject to discrimination, and education is a powerful tool for them to overcome poverty, be respected, and advocate for human rights. Special thanks to Fr. Roy Bourgeois and monthly donors to this fund.

AREA: YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIPS



CIS works with 18 local Salvadoran scholarship committees and 20 sister organizations and individual donors to fund **187 youth to go to the university and 306 to go to grade school and high school, to participate in leadership development workshops, and to volunteer in community projects in 2019**. We want to emphasize that the leadership development part of the program is as important as access to formal education to empower youth and be active in their communities. We encourage the youth to dream and give back to their community. Many youths see the only alternatives for their future to be migration or joining a gang. Accompaniment of the youth, especially in high risk situations, is an invaluable part of the program.



This year 104 students will graduate: 22 from University and 82 from high school. Special congratulations to university and vocational graduates: **Estanzuelas** – Yesenia Patricia Arias in English; Oscar Coreas in Psychology; Alfredo Ostorga in Computer networking; **Comasagua** – William Alfaro in Computer Engineering; **San Pablo Tacachico** – Deysi Pineda in Business Administration; **Mejicanos** – Diana Rivas in Graphic Design; Enrique Perez in Mechanical Engineering; Karina Benitez in Education; Karla Salazar in Social Work; **Comunidad Ellacuria** – Marina Rivera in Nutrition; Johana Ramos in Agro-industrial Engineering; Anibal Hernandez in English; **San Pedro Perulapan** – Wilman Lopez in Natural Science; Ligia Cornejo in Journalism; Norma Hernandez in Literature; Abelardo Delgado and Isabel Garcia both in Tourism Management; **San Jose Palo Grande, Suchitoto** – Maria Azucena Henriquez with a diploma in English; **Tamanique** – Yordi Croy Cruz with a technical degree in Software; **Comunidad Romero, Tonacatepeque** – Miriam Merino in English; and **Gender Scholarships** -- Saul Alexander Vasquez with a diploma in English.

Students “**give back**” to their community by developing a volunteer project each year. It is impossible to mention all of the projects, but to mention a few: **Environmental and water projects** – consciousness-raising workshops at schools and communities, follow up on clean water filters and purifiers, planting trees, organic gardening, recycling, community garbage and clean up, negotiating with city hall to pick up the garbage, and more. **Tutoring and classes to youth in the community:** Computers, English, Literacy, Robotics, re-enforcement in a variety of subjects for youth having difficulties. **Scholarship Committee Administration:** writing student profiles, coordinating monthly distribution of scholarships, and other committee responsibilities. **Facilitating Workshops:** human rights, violence prevention, global warming, sexual health, correct use of social media. **Health:** Accompanying the local clinic in cleaning up areas and fumigating where mosquitos propagate, and helping local clinic with paper work. **Art and Mental Health:** working with youth to develop creative skills and also address trauma of being victims or witnesses to violence in the home or their community. **Coordinate and develop small local libraries,** where youth have access to books, reading out-loud, and computers. It is important to note the multiplying effect of these programs; it is not just the CIS’s 493 scholarship students participating in these projects, but also youth from kindergarten to ninth grade in the local schools, community institutions and leaders, and families of scholarship students. These CIS programs reach and involve thousands of community members.

*The CIS organized its **10th Annual Scholarship Retreat** with the participation of 105 students from 18 municipalities, CIS promoters, and Jim Koger from St. Patrick’s Church.* The focus of this year’s retreat was



gender equality and human rights. The 3-day event was organized by a team of scholarship students, building their leadership and organizational skills.

We are continually looking for new partnerships to grow and broaden the program. If you know a church, community organization, or non-profit who would like to be a part of this program, please let us know.

Scholarship beneficiaries during 2019 and their sponsors:



**includes K- high school*

	Scholarship programs 2019	Thank you, solidarity partners, !!!	University	High school
1996	Cinquera	St. Sabina, KC	11	
1998	Comunidad Ellacuría, Chalatenango	Notre Dame Prep School, MD Friends of Ellacuria St. John Fisher Parish, MI	18	18
2001	Estanzuelas	St. Patrick's Church, KC, MO	14	27
2007	Tamanique	Assumption Church, Granger, IA	9	20
2008	San Rafael Cedros	Our Lady of Presentation, KC, MO	12	20
2008	Comasagua	Corpus Christi University Parish, Toledo, OH Resurrection Church, Solon, OH CIS Scholarship Fund	6	21
2009	San Pedro Perulapán	Foundation for Cultural Exchange, CO	23	8
2010	San Pablo Tacachico – ADEMGUAPE	Pasadena Committee, CA	10	18
2010	Romero Community, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	4	44 *
2017	Paso Puente, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth & CIS Scholarship Fund	4	38 *
2017	Distrito Italia, Tonacatepeque	CIS Scholarship Fund and PazSalud	5	10
2013	Residencial Libertad, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth and CIS scholarship fund	1	5 *
2011	Isla El Espíritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo	Rainbow of Hope for Children, Canada	12	13
2011	San Francisco de Asís Parish, Mejicanos	St. Peter's Church, KC, MO	9	9
2011	San José Palo Grande, Suchitoto	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	10	11
2011	Artisans – Jaragua, Las Tinecas	REVV Fair Trade, Cleveland, OH	2	1
2013	Isla Tasajera, San Luis la Herradura	First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eugene, OR	12	9
2014	Tehuiste, San Pedro Nonualco	Caminos de Accion	6	8
2015	Llano Largo, Jutiapa	CIS Scholarship Fund	4	5
2016	San Isidro, Cabanas	CIS Scholarship Fund (1 St. Sabina)	5	6
2017	Gender	CIS Scholarship Fund	5	3
2018	Ita Maura Community San Pablo Tacachico	St. Regis Church, KC, MO	2	10
	At Large- San Juan Opico -; El Congo Sacacoyo, Soyapango, Los Hoyos, Ilobasco	PeaceHealth, and CIS scholarship fund	5	2
	TOTAL – 495 students		189	306 (231 HS) (75 K-9)

AREA: SCHOOL FOR SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION ERNEST REMER JENKINS

CIS is committed to development of women and young people to have the tools to work for social justice and transform Salvadoran reality. The School uses participatory methodology, multiplies what is learned in communities, and makes plans for action in their community. This year's school focused on gender issues to address gender inequality, the high level of feminicides, the high level of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, reasons why many youth drop out of school, inter-family violence, discrimination, and machismo that is rampant in many institutions, such as: family, gangs, church, armed forces, police, and education.

The School included studying Salvadoran legislation and international treaties for women's rights and non-violence, sexual and reproductive health, sexual diversity, a new masculinity not based on machismo, and facilitation workshops – so the 40 participants from 18 communities and CIS grassroots organizing staff can replicate the workshops in their communities.

AREA: SALVADORAN ENTERPRISES FOR WOMEN

SEW/CIS 2019 highlights include – The Colorado Seamstresses developed a business plan. Creative Hands in Estanzuelas graduated and is self-sustaining, but they introduced us to a new group of women they are training to sew, to be able to complement their embroidery and handicraft work. The Romero Jiquilite Women have



learned to present their indigo dye to potential clients and are networking to increase their sales. CIS staff together with SEW promoters completed a manual of workshops to train and empower women wanting to start a business. (Note - we will no longer list businesses that have previously graduated [meaning they have become self-sustaining] or businesses previously closed. Many continue to be part of CIS community work, but with fewer staff visits and less follow-up.)

<i>Supported since:</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Some Principle Achievements and needs</i>	<i># women</i>
Nov 2017	New Hope Women's Association, Ilobasco	No longer working with CIS due to different priorities from outside funding association.	7
Jan 2017	Tropical Fruits of the Pacific Ice Cream, Tamanique	Hygiene workshop, sales plans, and equipment for mobile sales	14
Oct 2016	Creative Hands Sewing Workshop, Estanzuelas	GRADUATED SEPT, and introduction to new spin off group that will focus on sewing to complement embroidery and handicraft production.	11
Jan 2016	Women's Jiquilite Organic Agriculture Cooperative Monseñor Romero	Women receive land title, sales workshops and visits, participation in national indigo fair in Suchitoto.	16
Jan 2015	Sausage a la Vista, Los Hoyos, Ilobasco	Training in hygiene and manufacturing methods with CDMYPE in Ilobasco.	7
Jan 2015	Divine Child Bakery, Los Hoyos, Ilobasco	With the income generated a member is studying baking and food handling technical degree in Ilobasco. The business is ready for graduation.	6
Nov 2014	Women in Action – "Candy Espíritu Santo" – Isla El Espíritu Santo	They had difficulty with keeping up with orders due to the drought and a drop in coconut production, the primary material used to make their candy. They have requested support for a storeroom required by the Ministry of Health.	11
Aug 2013	Los Azules de Tititihuape - Women cultivating jiquilite and processing indigo dye.	Producing indigo and a mutual support group for women with difficulties.	6
Jan. 2013	Las Delicias Bakery, Llano Largo	The business is self-sustaining . CIS is working with the women to develop a budget to purchase land and build a small building for their bakery.	4
Feb. 2012	Leslie's Bakery, Zacatales, Comasagua	Bakery closed due to violence in the zone.	7
Jan. 2011	Colorada Seamstresses	Completed business plan with women.	10

AREA: ENVIRONMENT AND CLEAN WATER

CIS Clean Water Program worked with 9 local water committees (San Rafael Cedros, San Pedro Perulapán, Tehuiste Abajo, Isla El Espíritu Santo, Cinquera, Tamanique, San Luis Los Ranchos, Comasagua, La Colorada, Isla Tasajera and Llano Largo), and cooperated with local schools and health promoters to broaden the impact and education around clean water. CIS trained and distributed water filters to 239/234? families and 5 **Clean Water for the World** Purification Units. CIS thanks **PeaceHealth, Clean Water for the World, University of Toledo Engineering students, Give Safe Water, Visitation Parish, St. John Fisher Parish and Caminos de Accion** for their partnership with CIS Clean Water Program and individual donors in 2019. We also want to thank **Rainbow of Hope for Children Foundation** for their commitment to clean water and water diagnosis in Romero Community and the donation of a new water tank to La Loma, Comasagua, to provide potable water for 25 families so they do not have to walk 2 kilometers down a steep hill for water. CIS scholarship students are an integral part of guaranteeing and following up on clean water units.

Distribution of Sawyer home water filters:

Distribution by Department and Municipality	Community	# filter 2019	# beneficiaries 2019
LA LIBERTAD			
Comasagua	Bellos Horizontes	25	108
CABAÑAS			
Cinquera		15	60
Tehutepeque		30	120
San Isidro		15	60
CUSCATLAN			
San Pedro Perulapán		11	50
San Rafael Cedros		14	58
Suchitoto	San Jose Palo Grande	15	62
LA PAZ			
San Pedro Nonualco	Tehuiste	15	59
SAN SALVADOR			
Tonacatepeque	Caserio Valle Nuevo	25	116
	Canton Las Delicias	15	70
San Salvador	María Madre de los Pobres	45	190
	Misc.	9	36
TOTAL		234	989

Clean Water for the World Water Purification Units 2019 – 5 new Units Installed

In addition to installing 5 new units, CIS water promoter did maintenance and follow up on 34 units and met with local water committees.

Place	#Beneficiaries
Centro Escolar Santa Olaya, Tejutepeque	92
Centro Escolar Caserío Azacualpita, Tehutepeque	107
Colegio Espíritu Santo, San Rafael Obrajuelo	289
Hermita Santa Catalina, Llano La Hacienda, San Isidro	200
Centro Escolar Llano La Hacienda, San Isidro	95
Total 2019	783

AREA: SOLIDARITY CRAFTS

CIS supports 16 artisan workshops which generate income for 75 individuals and their families by selling their products. High quality products are available at the CIS and on-line including organic coffee, coconut jewelry and accessories, jewelry and cards from recycled materials, painted wooden crafts, indigo dyed scarves and clothing, embroidery, purses from hand woven cloth from San Sebastian, and other beautiful hand crafts.

CIS gives artisans the benefit of fair-trade practices – paying a higher price than they receive from the local artisan markets and payment upfront, so they can pay their workers and invest in materials. Most local markets only offer payment on consignment – which requires time and bus fare to collect from sales, and scarce economic resources are tied up in inventory. **Please include a stop at the CIS artisan store on your next visit to El Salvador and visit our on-line store. Generating employment and fair trade is a revolutionary act. Salvadorans do not want to migrate but do so when they cannot put food on the table. Your purchases support Salvadoran families to be able to stay in El Salvador.**

THANK YOU to delegations and for internet orders we received this year: St. Sabina, St. Aloysius, St. Elizabeth, CISPES, University of Toledo, Somos Hermanos, COAR, Notre Dame Prep alumni, U.S. El Salvador Sister Cities, Share Foundation, Cleveland IRTF, CARECEN Los Angeles, St. John Fisher, Our Lady of Presentation, REVY, Good Shepherd Parish, St. Peter's Parish, St. Sebastian, All Saints Church and many individuals!!!!

AREA: CIS SOLIDARITY DELEGATIONS

CIS hosted 13 delegations with 88 participants. Evelyn, CIS' delegation coordinator, traveled with Victor Marengo and Eva Corea from Estanzuelas Scholarship Program to St. Patrick's Church, and CIS Director Leslie traveled with scholarship graduates Diana Rivas and Hector Diaz from Mejicanos to St. Peter's, both in Kansas City, in November. Later Leslie and Evelyn traveled to the School of the Americas Watch vigil and led a workshop on solidarity. Delegations included **3 sister parishes** accompanying scholarship programs; **University of Toledo engineering** students with **Clean Water for the World** helped install water purification units; Northern Wyoming



Community College and Caminos en Accion helped build a community garden in the Tehuistes communities, and a **Somos Hermanos** delegation painted the women’s cooperative in Comasagua.

Delegations support community organization and strengthen bonds of solidarity. Many groups sustain ongoing scholarship programs and through this have had the unique opportunity to build relationships and share in the lives of economically marginalized families. In addition, delegations promote cultural exchange and contribute to the CIS Clean Water Program and strengthening Women’s Businesses. CIS orients and facilitates delegations based on a relationship of solidarity and mutual respect; any material support

given supports community organization, human development, and tools for self-determination.

2019 DELEGATIONS:

	Delegation	#	Mission and visits	Dates
1.	St. Elizabeth’s Church	10	Scholarships, Romero, Paso Puente, Suchitoto, Palo Grande	JAN
2.	Fr. Jerry Kansas City Priests	5	Rutilio Grande, Romero, Paso Puente, Suchitoto, Palo Grande	JAN
3.	University of Toledo	13	Clean Water for the World, Comasagua	MAR
4.	Trio Program Northern Wyoming Community College, Caminos de Accion.	13	Planted organic vegetable garden, Los Tehuistes, and scholarship exchange.	MAR /APR
5.	Somos Hermanos	4	Comasagua	APR/MAY
6.	Notre Dame Prep Alumni	4	Scholarships Comunidad Ellacuria	MAY/JUN
7.	St. Peter’s Church	6	Scholarships Mejicanos	JUN
8.	SALVAID/ translation services	18	Huisiilapa, La Libertad	JUN/JUL
9.	St. Patrick’s/Scholarship retreat	1	Estanzuelas	JUL
10.	St. Andrews by the Bay, translation	6	Mejicanos	AUG
11.	San Francisco de Asís, Mejicanos	3	St. Peter’s, Kansas City Sister Exchange	NOV
12.	CIS Estanzuelas Scholarship program	3	St. Patrick’s, Kansas City	NOV
13.	CIS director and Promoter	2	School of the Americas Watch workshop, Georgia	NOV
		88		

AREA: CIS 13TH INTERNATIONAL MISSION OF ELECTION OBSERVERS

CIS International Mission of Election Observers included 70 observers from the U.S., Canada, Germany, Sweden. Great Britain, India, and El Salvador, including 12 long-term volunteers who helped with training and logistics. CIS observed the elections in 9 municipalities in 4 departments and the Electoral Reception Board for votes outside the country. The volunteer team translated the Supreme Elections Tribunal instruction manual, facilitating in-depth understanding, observations and final report. **Special thanks to long-term volunteers – Cathy Howell, Roberto Corea, Wanda Lane, Cameron Clark, Paul Fitch, Cesia Guardado, Glenn Rehn, Lily Vega, Laura Alfaro, Arnoldo Carcamo, Mary Frances Ross, and Brooke Nagle for their excellent work!!!**

The Observer Mission also focused on human-rights issues facing Salvadorans today. We visited women in prison condemned to 30 years in prison; met with Aquiles Magaña, the Director of the Government Agency dealing with returned immigrants (CONMIGRANTE) and the government center where deported immigrants and refugees are received.



A third field trip focused on water as a human right.

PROGRAM: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

AREAS: PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDRAISING

Do not forget to “like” us on Facebook – CIS - Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad – if you haven’t already! We have over 5,300 likes as we finish 2019. In 2019, CIS opened a Twitter account (199 followers) and an Instagram Account (141 followers).



The CIS and Los Olivos CIS employ 17 persons on a permanent basis, including 13 women and four men; 15 are Salvadoran, one from the U.S., and one from Mexico. We give thanks to Cameron Clark for his first year of service with the CIS as a **Brethren Volunteer** collaborating with Clean Water Program, teaching English, and translating scholarship profiles. **Thank you, Cameron and Brethren Volunteer Service!**

!Gracias!

Please donate generously to CIS solidarity work for social and economic transformation

Please check one:

- Enclosed find my donation of _____ for CIS Dignified Housing Fund
- Enclosed find my donation of _____ for Clean Water and Environment Fund
- Enclosed find my donation of _____ for CIS health care and pension for staff.

My interest is to support the program indicated above, but my donation is unrestricted and may be used for any CIS program, or

My donation is restricted to be used ONLY for the program I have indicated above.

Please note, CIS respects the wishes of its donors and will use your generous gift for the program indicated, but to simplify our accounting, we encourage you to make an unrestricted gift.

Tax deductible donations can be made payable to and mailed to:

**Los Olivos CIS (in U.S. dollars)
PO Box 76
Westmont, IL 60559-0076, USA**

Debit/credit card donations can be made online:

www.cis-elsalvador.org/donate.html

For more information: Toll free number in U.S.: 1-866-887-2665; El Salvador: ++ 503-2226-5362

www.cis-elsalvador.org; info@cis-elsalvador.org

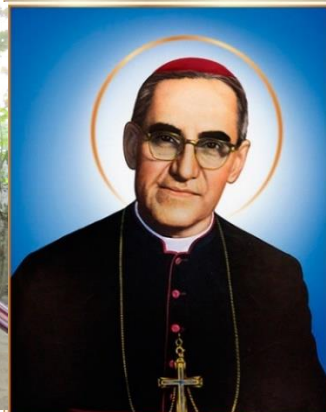
If you would like to give a gift of stock or IRA distribution or to remember CIS in your will, please call our toll-free number at 1-866-887-2665 and we can work with you to facilitate your generous gift.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State/Province/Dept. _____
 Zip Code _____
 Country _____
 E-mail: _____

Plan on visiting El Salvador in 2020! The U.S. state department has lowered the travel alert from 3 to 2, the same designation as many European countries. The level 3 alert has been an obstacle for university administrations in the past.



CIS - Saint Oscar Romero 40th Anniversary Delegation
Solidarity and the Struggle for Social Justice in El Salvador Today!
March 19 - 26, 2020



SAN ÓSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO
OBISPO Y MÁRTIR

Saint Romero: Solidarity and the Struggle for Social Justice in El Salvador today, Program will include:

- Romero Vigil and processions Saturday, March 22 and March 24
- Visit Romero's home and the chapel where he gave his life and Cathedral and tomb of Saint Romero
- Visit Romero and Paso Puente Communities and learn of their struggle for social inclusion after living years in squalor conditions – no water, plumbing, shacks made of plastic, tin and old bed springs, rampant illiteracy, discrimination by authorities, and injustice. Learn of the difference solidarity and working as partners with mutual respect can make.
- Visit women empowered through CIS small business program /formerly SEW
- Visit women imprisoned for still births and obstetric emergencies, accused of abortion, and women who have been released from prison due to organization and solidarity.
- Analysis: the roots of violence and migration; the struggle for water as a human right, impact and strategies of the new government of Nayib Bukele in El Salvador.

Logistics

Travel: You are responsible for arranging you flight.

Arrival: by Thursday March 19th midday

Departure: Any time on Thursday, March 26

Cost:

- \$700 per person in shared room (3-5 persons)
- \$800 per person in shared double room
- \$900 per person for single room

Costs includes all in country costs March 19 – 25: in country transportation, to and from airport on designated dates, all meals starting lunch on March 19th and ending with breakfast March 26th, 8 nights in Hotel, program, translation/guide.

Costs do not include airfare or additional hotel, food, transport outside of delegation dates. If a delegate arrives before or leaves after designated dates, CIS can arrange extra nights in hotel and/or taxi service to and from the airport. Hotel nights are approximately \$30 per night and taxi ride to or from the airport is approximately \$28.

Applications due by: online or mailed attached due by January 19 delegaciones@cis-elsalvador.org.

Payment due by: February 19th. <http://www.cis-elsalvador.org/index.php/en/payments> (menu-delegation fee)

On-line application: <https://forms.gle/e5prs5mTsJw6FMJM9>

Photos: CIS dignified housing beneficiaries, official Saint Romero Portrait, Women released after spending more than 10 years in prison, falsely accused of abortion.